National Policy on Co-operatives

495. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a draft National Policy or, Co-operates;

(b) if so, the views of the State Government in this regard; and

(e) the act:on proposed to extend financial help to Cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) It has been decided to formulate a National Policy on Cooperatives. The Draft National Policy on Cooperative, was discussed with the State Ministers of Cooperation in a Conference held on 30-6-2000 in New Delhi. The State Governments accepted the Draft National Policy *in* principle, However, in order to further fine-tune the draft, it was decided to constitute a Group of State Ministers headed by Minister of State (Agriculture). The Group of Ministers has held its next meeting on 17-7-2000. The policy would be finalised in view of the recommendations of the Group of Ministers.

(c) Financial help to the Cooperatives is being extended as per approved plans/schemes and budget allocation.

Suicide by farmers

496. SHRI K. M. KHAN. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the suicidal deaths of the farmers in Mehboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh on account of seviere drought situation.

(b) If so, the causes of such suicidal deaths;

(c) whether it is a fact that there was starvation deaths in Mahbubnagar district' on account of unprecedented drought situation; and

(d) what relief measures the Central and State Government have taken to help these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE *MINISTRY* OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA, RAO): (a) to (c) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has informed that there are no suicide deaths either on account of drought situation or on *account of* starvation.

(d) The Central Government released to Andhra Pradesh Central share of Rs. 107.09 crore for 1999-2000 and Rs. 77.78 crore for 2000-01 under Calamity Relief Find and Rs. 75.36 crore during 1999-2000 under National Fund for Calamity Relief. In addition, the Government of India took other measures which include tree transportation of fodder and water by the Railways to the drought scarcity affected areas of the State allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates for distribution in. the drought affected areas, provision of maximum support by the RBI for conversion of short-ten*: production loans into mid-term loans for drought affected areas. release of funds *b;* NABARD from Rural Infrastructure Development Fund The State Government had also reportedly takes measures for employment generation, fodder contingency programme, steps for making available drinking water and opening of cattle camps and fodder depots for the benefit of cattle.

Loss *of* Crops

497. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of loss in *crops* in the drought affected States;

(b) steps being taken to check such calamities;

(c) the details of schemes/projects being undertaken to tackle such drought;

(d) the estimated amount on each project; and

(e) the fund released/to be released till comoletion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF